

1931

## His Majesty's Room...

Anafred Stephenson  
*Iowa State College*

Follow this and additional works at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker>



Part of the [Home Economics Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Stephenson, Anafred (1931) "His Majesty's Room...," *The Iowa Homemaker*: Vol. 11 : No. 4 , Article 3.  
Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/homemaker/vol11/iss4/3>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Homemaker by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [digirep@iastate.edu](mailto:digirep@iastate.edu).

# His Majesty's Room . . .

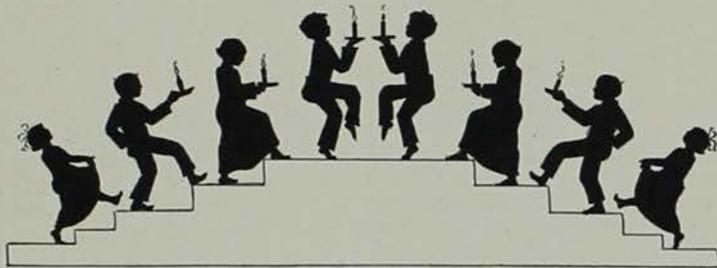
By Anafred Stephenson

Personality May Develop There

**T**WO chubby arms reach up over a tousled head. Two sturdy legs stretch to the very limit of their length. Two roguish eyes open, close again for a moment, and then open wide. Bobby is awake, and ready for another eventful day. Bobby is three years old, and one of the greatest joys of his joyous existence is the interesting surroundings into which he awakens each day. How he loves that Shetland pony that first greets his vision when he awakens this morning. Of course, it's only a picture cut from a magazine and hung on the wall, but Bobby has taken many long rides in his baby fancy while waiting for the sandman to close his eyes.

Did you ever try to conceive the thoughts and dreams and fancies that fit through the busy brain of a three-year-old when he is lying in his bed waiting for sleep to come? And doesn't it seem possible that this vivid imagination can be directed into happy, constructive channels of thinking just by a little thought and care on his surroundings? If he can have a room all his own, the task is easy. Have the walls plain and not covered with juvenile paper that shows a few objects and then repeats them endlessly all over the room. They are so monotonous that they soon do not register at all. The walls would be nice painted some soft neutral color that would be a good background for any colored picture. These walls are of greatest importance as it is here that the eyes rest when slumber time is past or sleep refuses to come.

On these plain walls a whole panorama of interesting, beautiful things may be brought to this active, vivid mind. This Shetland pony is just one idea and will interest Bobby for at least a week, and then his interests can be directed toward mechanics by clipping a few of the many pictures of fascinating motor trucks to hang on the wall. Every little boy loves a truck much more than a pleasure car, and he will load the truck, drive it, back it, and turn it tirelessly for many days. Show him pictures of lovely birds, flowers, and animals. I know of one mother who gathered from her flower garden a cosmos that had just started to bud, another just a little farther along, and, in



So to Bed

fact, five stages from the starting bud to the full blown flower. These she pinned upon a piece of cardboard and hung on the wall. What an interesting manner to bring before the mind of a child the great miracle of a flower bursting into bloom!

This being a child's room, it is desirable to arrange everything on a child's scale. Consequently, all pictures should be hung low, low enough for a youngster's curious fingers to handle. The windows should be low, too, with perhaps a tiny window seat where the child may sit in a good light to look at his picture books. There is practically no danger of a child falling out of the window any more. The heavy window panes now make it impossible for a little tot to crash through the glass when the window is down, while the permanent screens that most homes are now equipped with, absolutely safeguard him against pushing out the screen.

**L**OW built-in book shelves are most attractive on either side of a window seat, and tend to develop the habit of reading by giving the youngster his own library. Another feature of the window seat is that it may be the cover on a chest where bungsomes toy trucks and trains may be kept.

Provide low shelves or drawers where the child may have a rendezvous of all his favorite playthings and toys; not with the idea that he shall play with them in his own room, but more to impress him with the idea that they are his property and that he is responsible for them.

Have only the very necessary articles of furniture in the child's room, nothing except those important for his health and comfort. However, it should not be bleak or barren. A most attractive room can be worked out by careful selection of the furnishings. The furniture for a satisfactory nursery usually includes a wooden table about two by three feet in size and low enough for a child to sit at comfort-

ably. It is best to have two chairs, one a straight chair and the other a tiny rocker. Either a bureau or a chest of drawers is essential to hold the child's clothing. His closet can be made interesting to the extent that there may be some incentive for hanging up his clothes by stringing spring clothes pins on a wire stretched across the wardrobe in

which he may pinch his suits and blouses, an act which is much more intriguing than merely hanging them on a hook. A comfortable, simple bed is the only other requisite of furniture.

It is generally considered best to use linoleum on the floor, and if rugs are used they should be of some washable cotton material. Rugs provide another interesting way of introducing color.

**T**HE nursery should be a cheerful room, and color may be freely used in all materials. Color and harmony are desirable, but too startling hues may prove to be unrestful, so it is best to use soft colors. The furniture may be painted one color with some harmonizing hue used for cotton curtains and bedspread that may be washed at frequent intervals. Another interesting color note would be a pillow or two for the window seat, but made of such a durable material that they could be tossed about on the floor.

A nursery such as this may be planned for the new baby who will not outgrow it until school age, if a few alterations are made. The first bed may be only a basket or small crib, followed by the bed large enough to use for five years. During the first year of baby's life, mother will need a chair and table built according to adult dimensions. These should be placed in a convenient position so the toilet articles will be easily accessible.

The care of the nursery is an important factor; but because of the fact that everything regarding it is washable, it is not a very difficult task to keep it sparkling. The room should be thoroughly aired and cleaned every day. While baby is yet very small, he should be moved into another well-aired room or outdoors while this is being done. Later when the child is older and does not spend the entire day as well as night in his room, it will be very easy to keep the nursery well aired without making such an effort.